

2.9

Handout

TYPES OF PLAGIARISM



Using other people's words should only be done with the proper references and citations. Be understanding the various types of plagiarism, you'll see how important it is to identify your sources and create your own work.

Direct plagiarism

- Also known as "Copy & Paste"
- Copying text, material, or ideas without any citation
- Passing off someone else's written text or spoken ideas as your own



TYPES OF PLAGIARISM

Incorrect/Incomplete Citations

- Forgetting to put quotations marks around direct quotes
- Forgetting to cite or link to a source
- Using a source for multiple purposes but only citing it once in your piece
- Citing the wrong source or incorrectly linking to it



Paraphrasing

- Using someone else's work without citation and changing the words or structure to make it look original
- Rewording someone else's work without adding any original ideas
- Swapping similar words or phrases in to make someone else's work sound different enough to pass as original



Accidental Plagiarism

- If you commit plagiarism and didn't mean to, it's still plagiarism
- Could happen through copying/pasting, paraphrasing, or poor citations



TYPES OF PLAGIARISM

Example:

Forbes contributor Scott Mendelson [recently wrote](#) about how the failure of the *Justice League* movie might prevent movie studios from trying to create more shared universes - like the ones from Marvel or Star Wars.

In his article, Mendelson wrote:

More importantly, Justice League's relative failure may have finally killed Hollywood's counterproductive obsession with the so-called cinematic universe. Just 5.5 years after The Avengers made \$1.5 billion worldwide and sent the industry chasing their own MCU-like universe, I would argue the relative failure of the DC Comics version was the final nail in the coffin of this disastrous pursuit. If Justice League can't make at least as much as any of the (2D) Twilight sequels, then why bother?

If we were to **directly plagiarize** Mendelson's work, we might write:

The failure of Justice League may have finally killed Hollywood's obsession with cinematic universes. Just 5 and a half years after The Avengers made \$1.5 billion worldwide and sent the industry chasing their own MCU-like universe, I'd argue the failure of Justice League was the final nail in the coffin of this disastrous pursuit.

Even with a few tweaks and minor edits, this paragraph is almost identical to the original.

If you **paraphrased** the original work, you might end up with something like this:

It's only been 5 or so years since The Avengers made \$1.5 billion worldwide and every studio suddenly wanted their own universe. But none of them have found success and the quality of films have suffered. Thankfully, Justice League might have finally convinced studios that trying to create these shared universes would be a disaster. Think about it: if a movie like Justice League is struggling to out-perform Twilight movies, it's not worth it.

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This piece is essentially a rewrite of Mendelson's work, following the same structure, arguments, even the examples being cited.

But what if you rewrite the idea and used quotes?

With the disappointing box office performance of Justice League, DC's movie universe is in danger of falling apart. But what about other studios? Are they still interested in creating their own universes? Some believe the poor performance of Justice League "was the final nail in the coffin of this disastrous pursuit. If Justice League can't make at least as much as any of the (2D) Twilight sequels, then why bother?"

Using quotation marks to identify a quote is a good start, but **you must identify your source**. Otherwise, it still is plagiarism.

Ultimately, if you're quoting other sources, you want to take an approach more like this one:

With the disappointing box office performance of Justice League, DC's movie universe is in danger of falling apart. But what about other studios? Are they still interested in creating their own universes? Forbes' Scott Mendelson argues that the poor performance of Justice League "was the final nail in the coffin of this disastrous pursuit. If Justice League can't make at least as much as any of the (2D) Twilight sequels, then why bother?" I have to agree - the risks are too great.

In this example, we start with original copy, cite the source as an expert, use a quote, link to the original, and finish with our own content. Give complete credit where it's due!